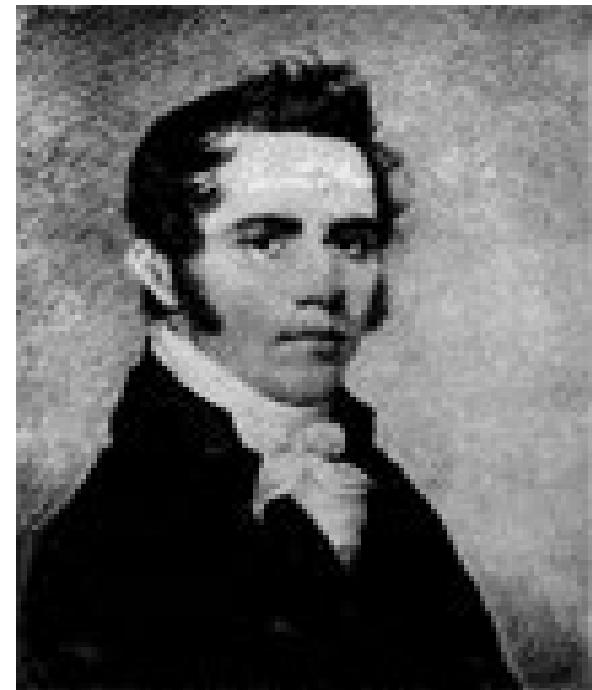
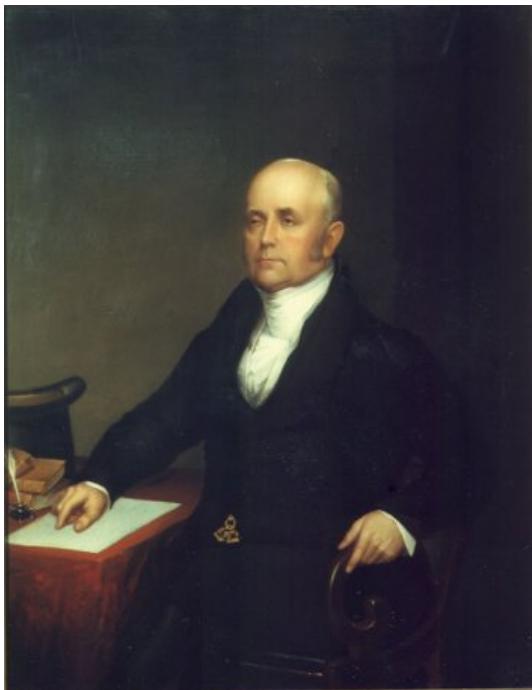
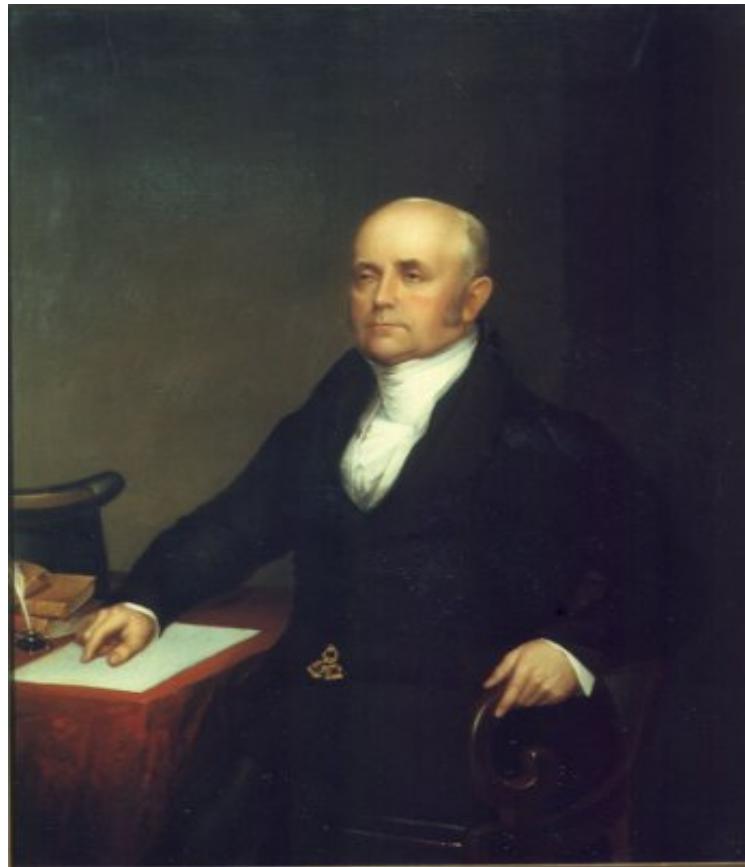


Three Men And Their Contributions To Banknote Security Engraving.



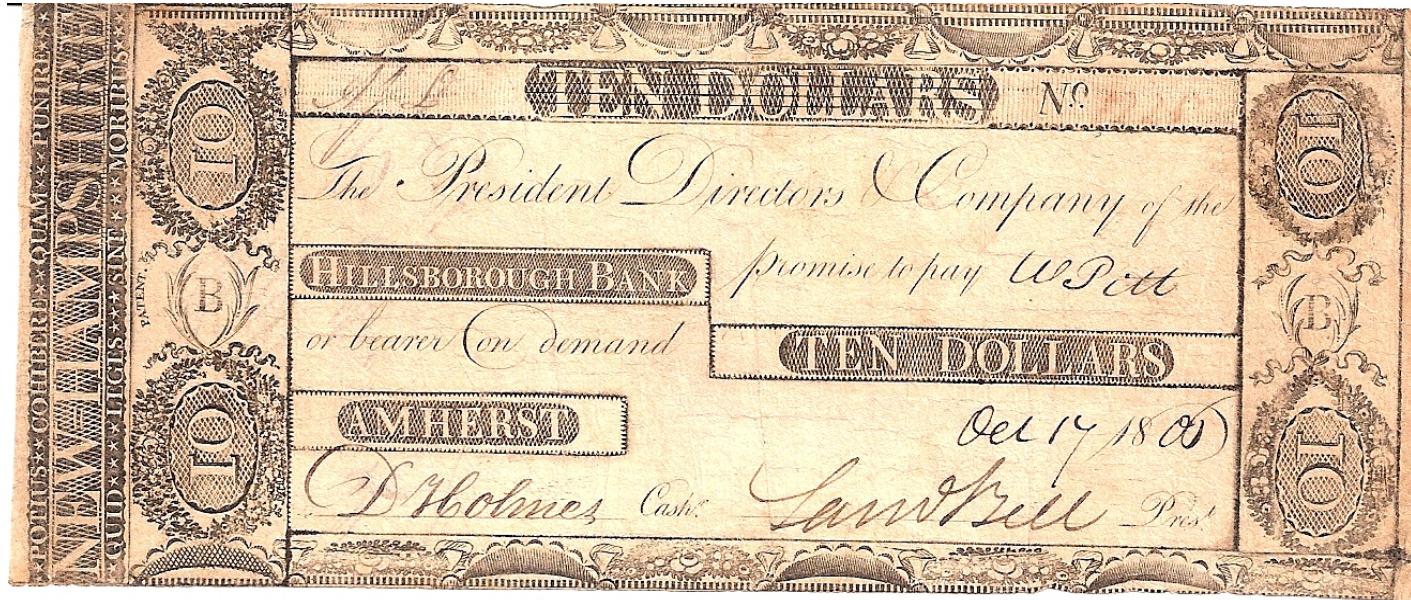
Jacob Perkins.....Stereotype Steel Plate & the Siderographic Transfer Press.
Sir William Congreve.....Compound Printing Plate & Triple Paper.
Abel Bowen.....Used Congreve's Patent for an anti-counterfeiting device on
Perkins' Stereotype Steel Plate notes printed by the New England Banknote Co.

Jacob Perkins, Newburyport.



- His inventive genius knew no bounds. His invention of the stereotype steel plate and the transfer roller revolutionized banknote security.

A Perkins Early Attempt. Hillsborough Bank, \$10.00 1805.



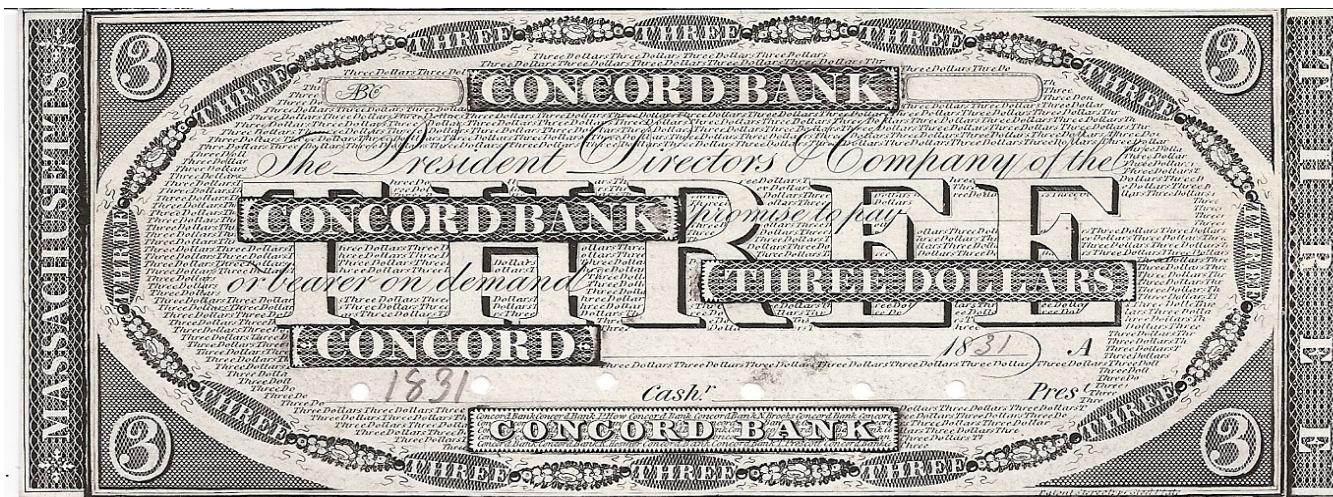
- These earlier Stereotype Steel Plate notes left plenty of white space in the body of the note.

Suffolk Bank, \$5.00.



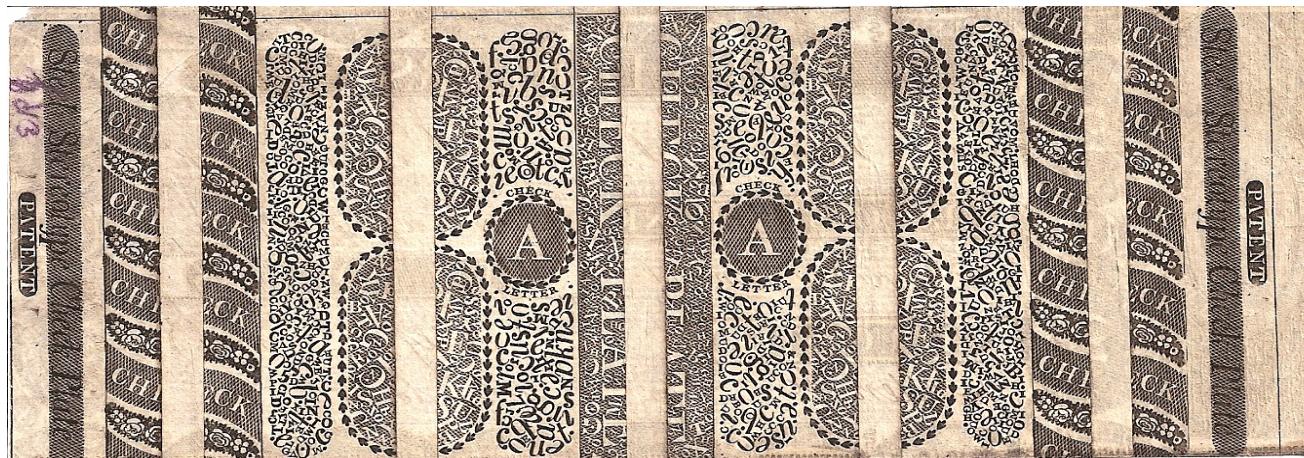
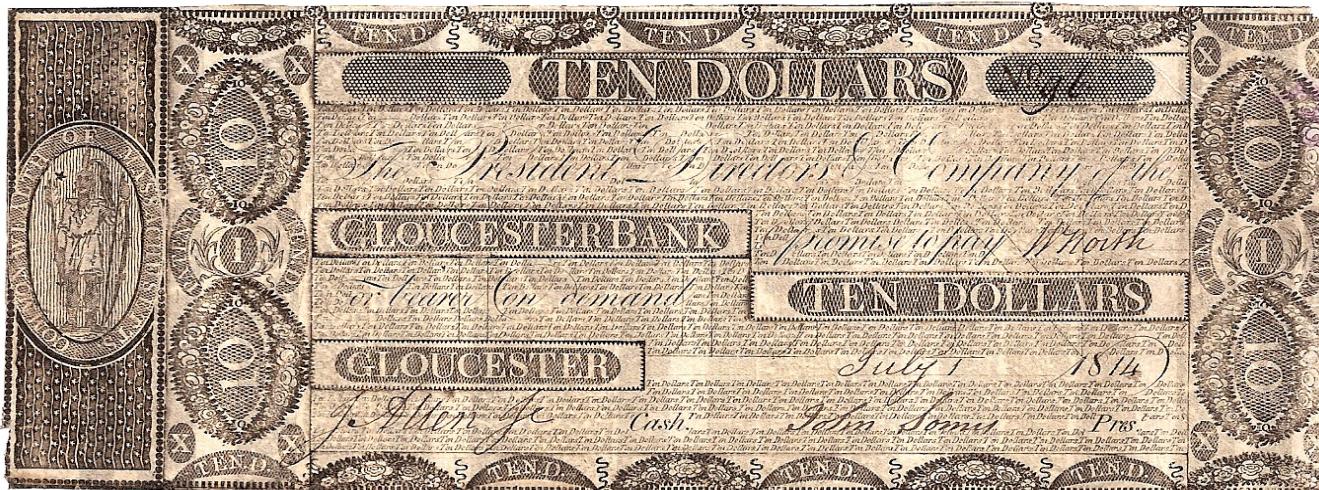
The addition of lines of micro-printing in the body of the note further deterred counterfeiting.

Minor Denominations.



Minor denominations, \$1 through \$4 were executed in the oval form and with many lines of micro-type.

Gloucester Bank, \$10.00 With Check Plate Reverse.



The addition of the check plate reverse was mandated by law on \$5.00 denominations but often used on others also.

Patent Stereotype Steel Check Plate or Back Plate By Perkins.



Made with six steel plates clamped together, engraved then separated by plain steel plates. A soft steel roller would then take up all of the design, be hardened and transfer it all on to one other plate. Notice the small letters in the ovals. Some ovals have white letters, others black, requiring two different methods of engraving.

New Hampshire Union Bank, III(\$3) Dollar Note.



Imprints with the Perkins name are very hard to find and may actually refer to his brother Abraham, at this time in charge of his engraving business in the United States.

Close-Up of the (Perkins') Imprint, Haxby Abbreviation “PPSP”.



- It might not ever be known if a different Perkins' patent was approved as the U.S. Patent Office burned down in 1836 with a complete loss of all the filings.

Rochester Bank, \$2.00.



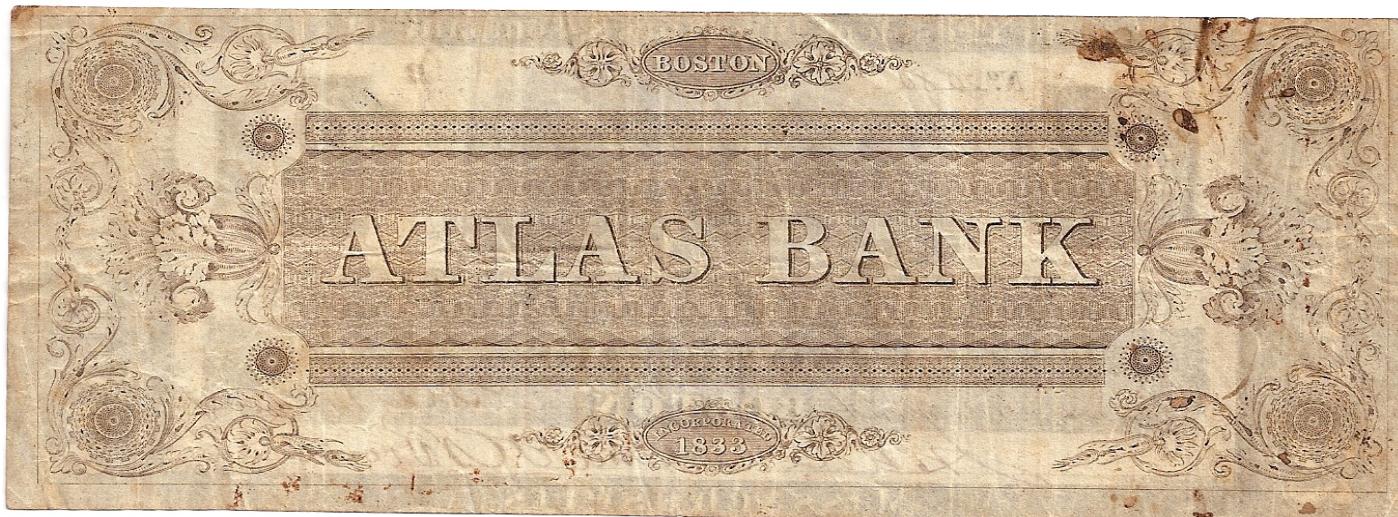
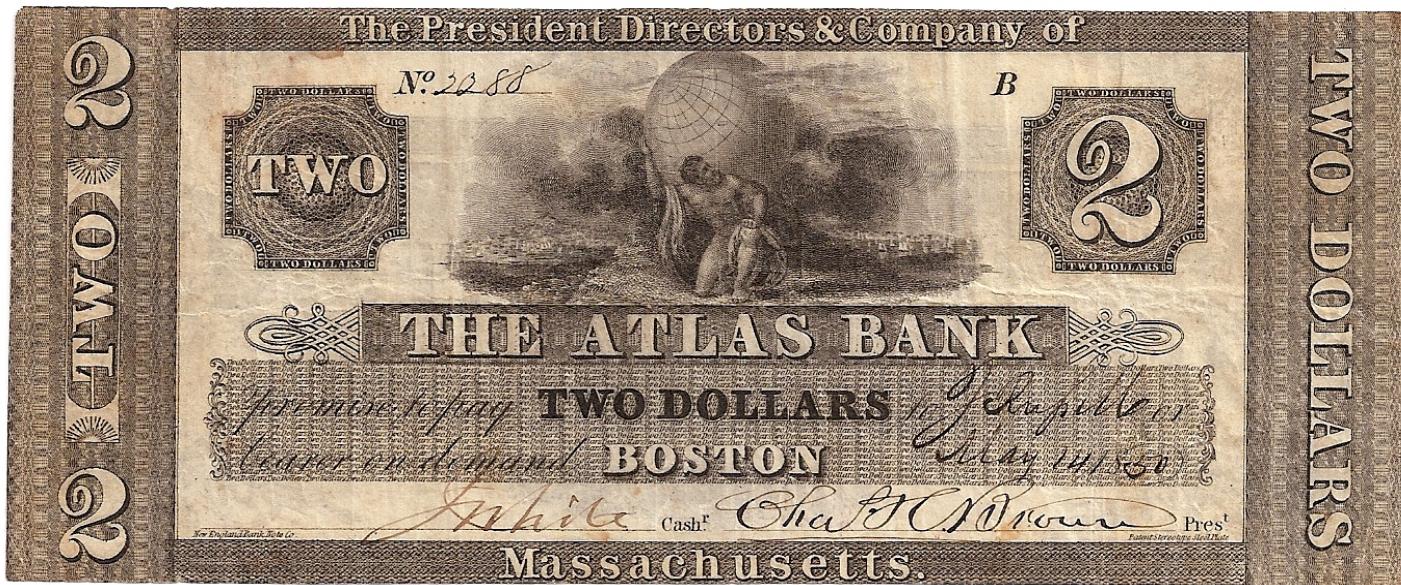
- By the late 1840's the stereotype plates lost most of their original security features even though the imprints led one to believe they were indeed the same.

Farmer's Bank, Bangor \$1.00.



- By the 1840's-1850's just about everyone craved notes with beautiful vignettes even though they were more prone to counterfeiting. This late example while still a stereotype note shows some artistic innovation. NEBNCo has removed the PSSP imprint completely.

The Atlas Bank, \$2.00.



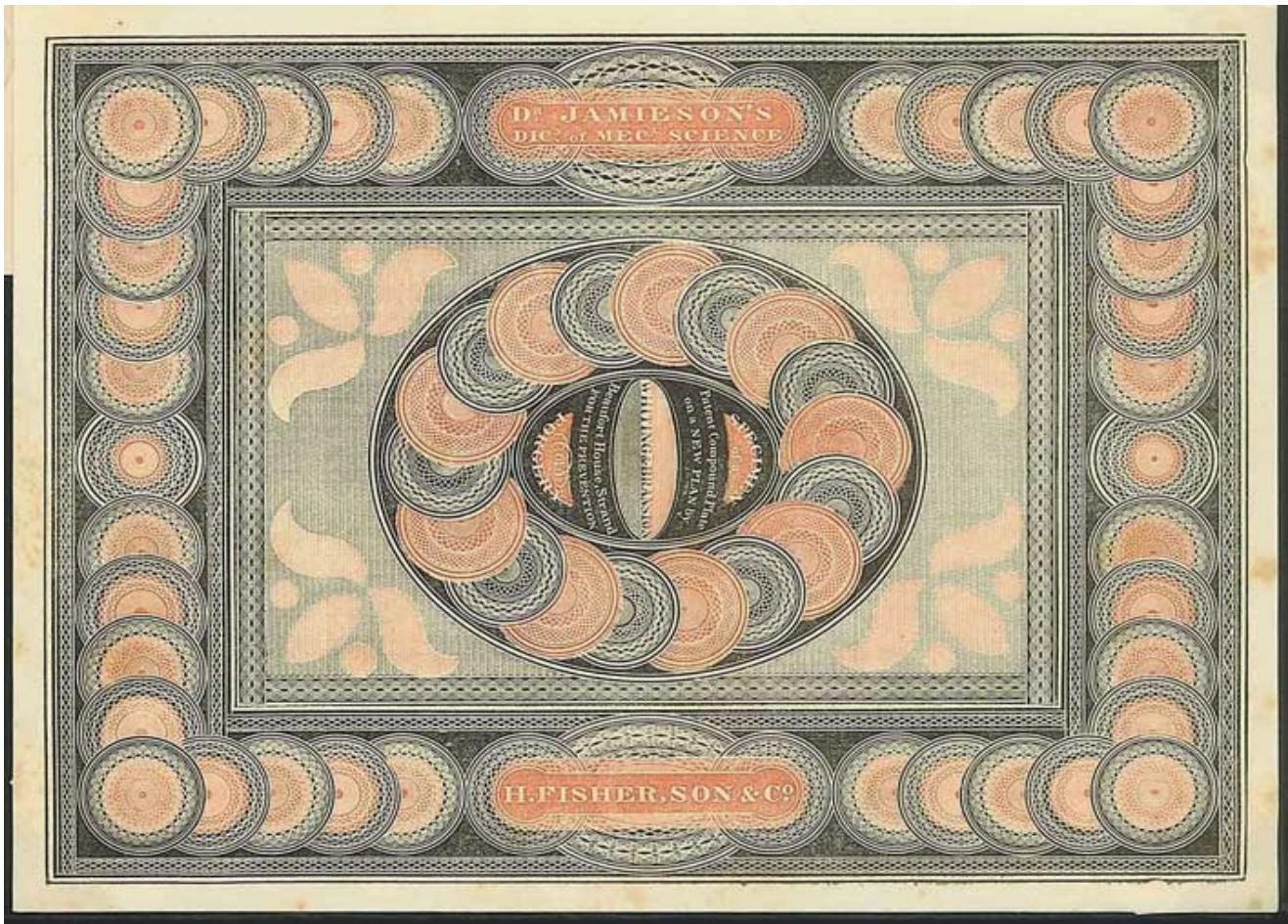
This plate was in use at least until 1850. Haxby lists this as a "check plate" back which is probably not correct.

Sir William Congreve, 2nd Baronet, Kent, England.



- What is a Baronet?

Congreve Pioneered The Compound Printing Plate.



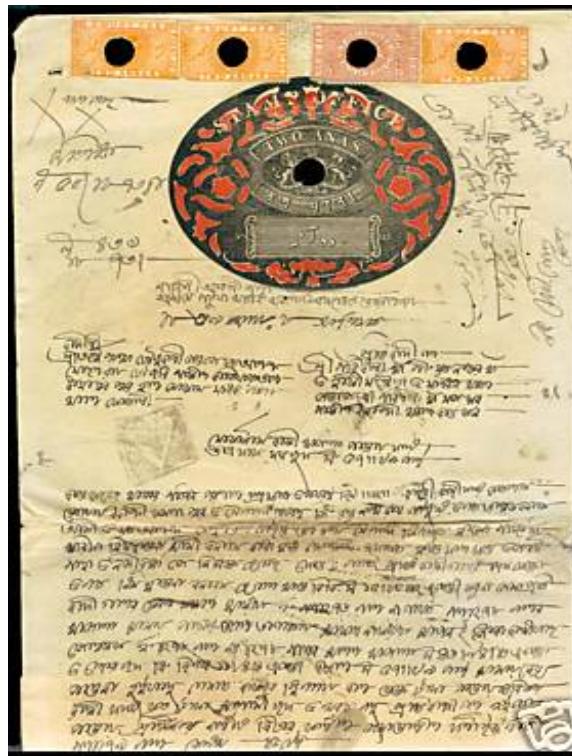
This example of compound printing is very distinctive and only one press of the plate is required.

Another Congreve Style Printing. A 1 Shilling & 3 Pence Tax Stamp.



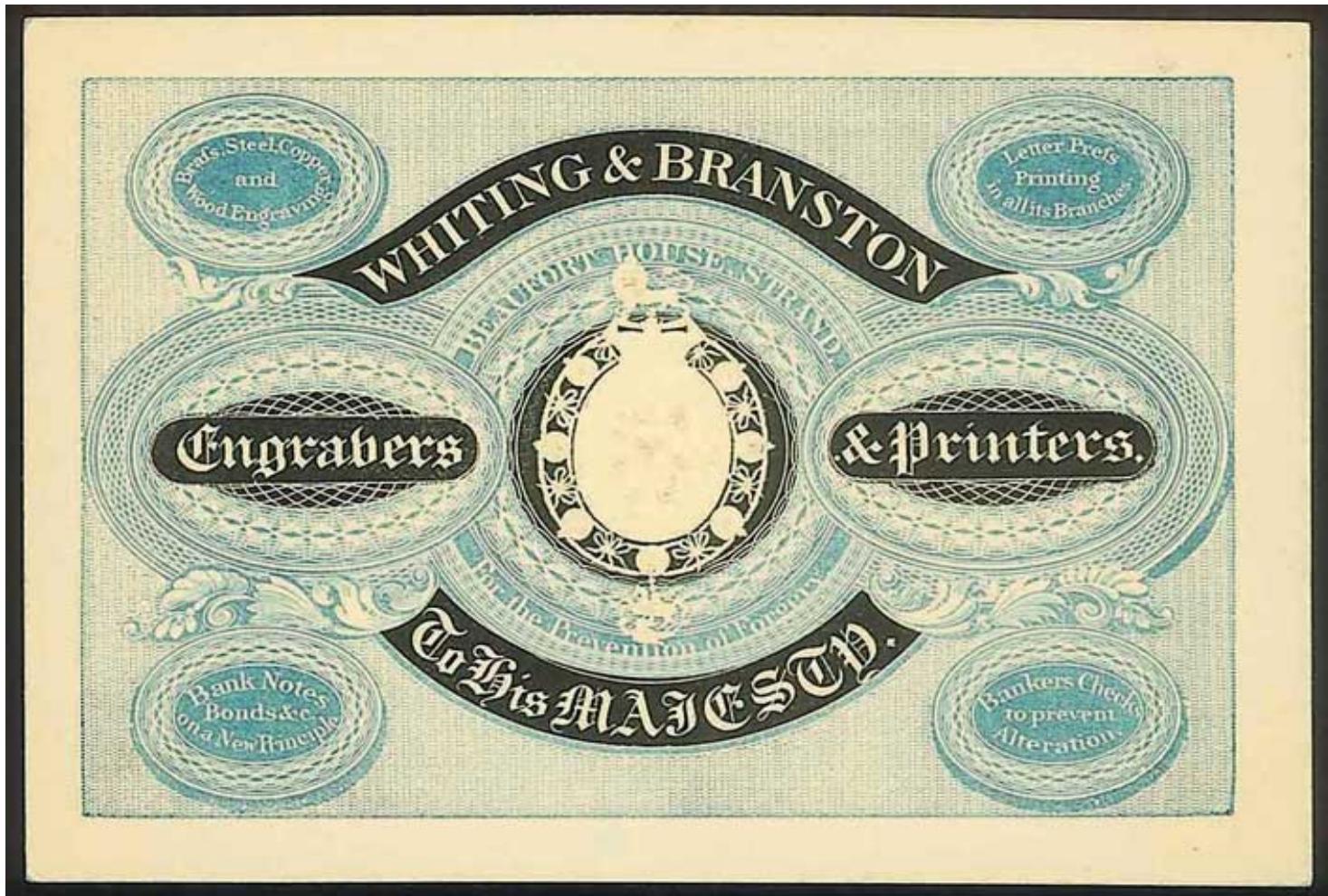
- This method provided an almost counterfeit-proof product. This engraving is a tax stamp on the back of an 1825 5 Pound note on the Salop & North Wales Bank.

Congreve's Influence Extended To The Far Reaches Of The British Empire.



- Paper made for official or valuable documents using a Congreve Seal were also used in other parts of the empire like India.

Whiting & Branston Trade Card.



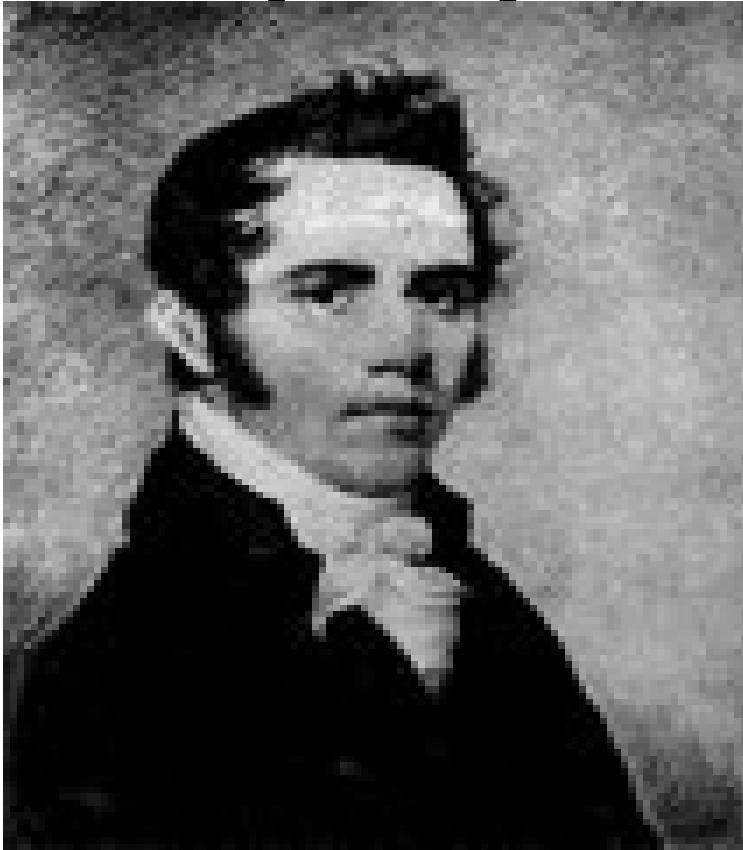
Congreve sold his patent rights to Whiting & Branston in about 1824.

The Congreve Patent Was
Obtained In England For Use On
Banknotes And Other Securities.



The patent probably relates only to the method used to produce this and similar distinctive designs. Congreve died in 1828, about five years before his method was used in the U.S.

Abel Bowen, Boston. Man Of Mystery.



- Bowen was a well known wood & book-plate engraver & map maker in Boston but not much is known about his involvement with banknotes.

Three Nahant Stereotype Notes.



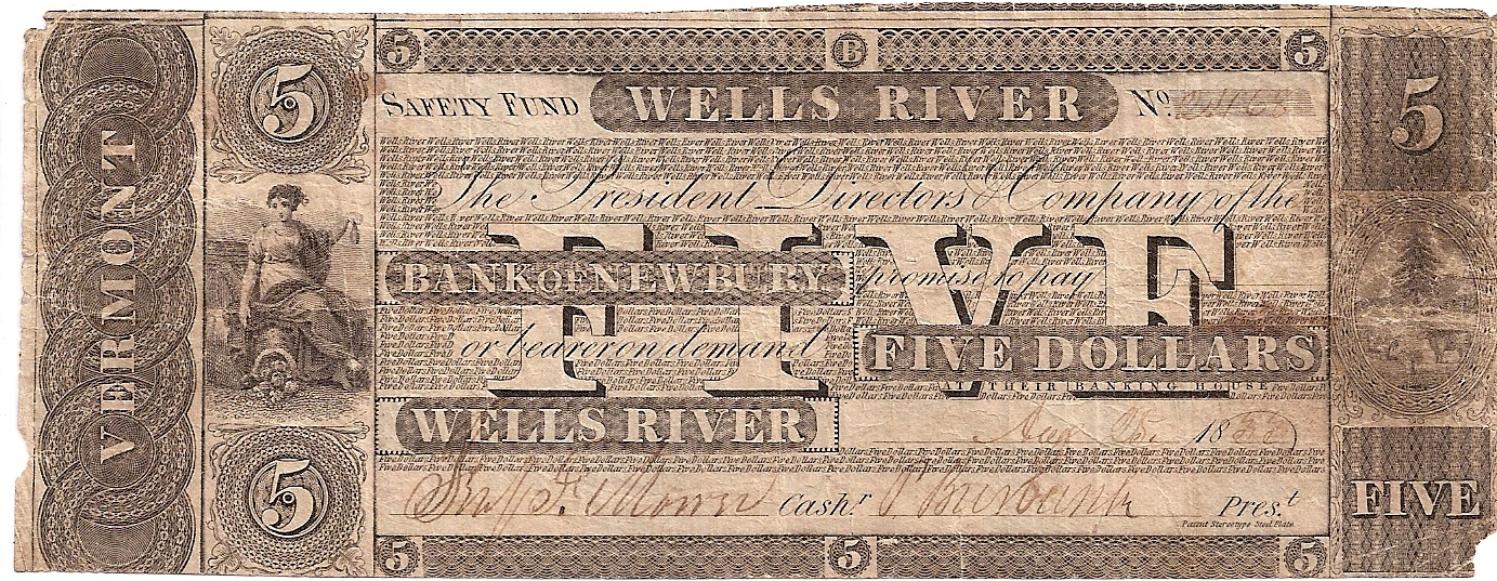
- Some of the earlier back designs. (No Bowen back plate design #'s evident). The fronts of most notes carry a plate letter for easier identification as to the plate position or style.

Nahant Bank, \$500.00. Front Plate Letter “A”.



- The original position of Bowen's imprint was on the lower brown border. Apparently he repositioned it after noticing it went missing when the notes were cut from the sheet. The “New England Cut” was probably what forced him to adjust the imprint upward.

Bank Of Newbury, \$5.00 Showing The Congreve Check Plate Back.



Note the
imprint,
“Patent
Stereo-
type Steel
Plate”

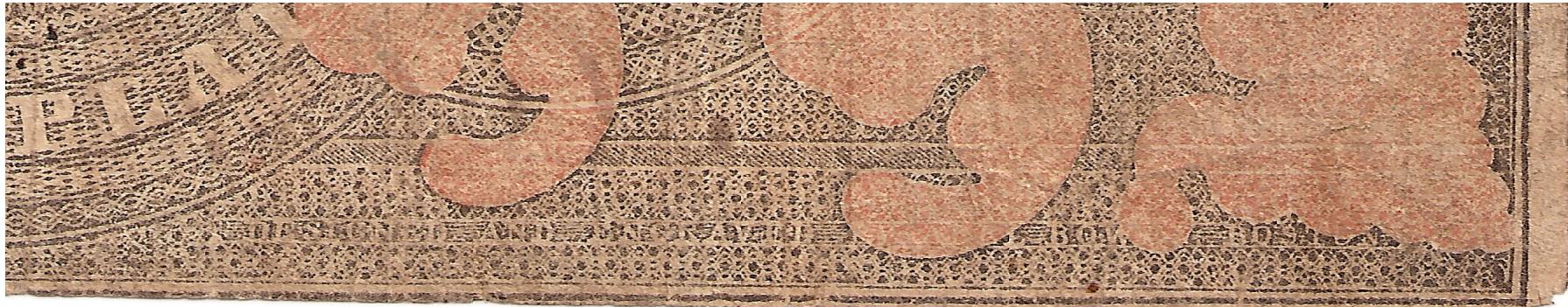
right
under the
title for
the bank
president.

Bank Of Newbury, \$5.00.



- The Bowen imprint is visible under magnification. Here it has been raised from its original position on the lower border. (No Bowen plate design # evident).

Fall River Bank, Troy \$5.00.



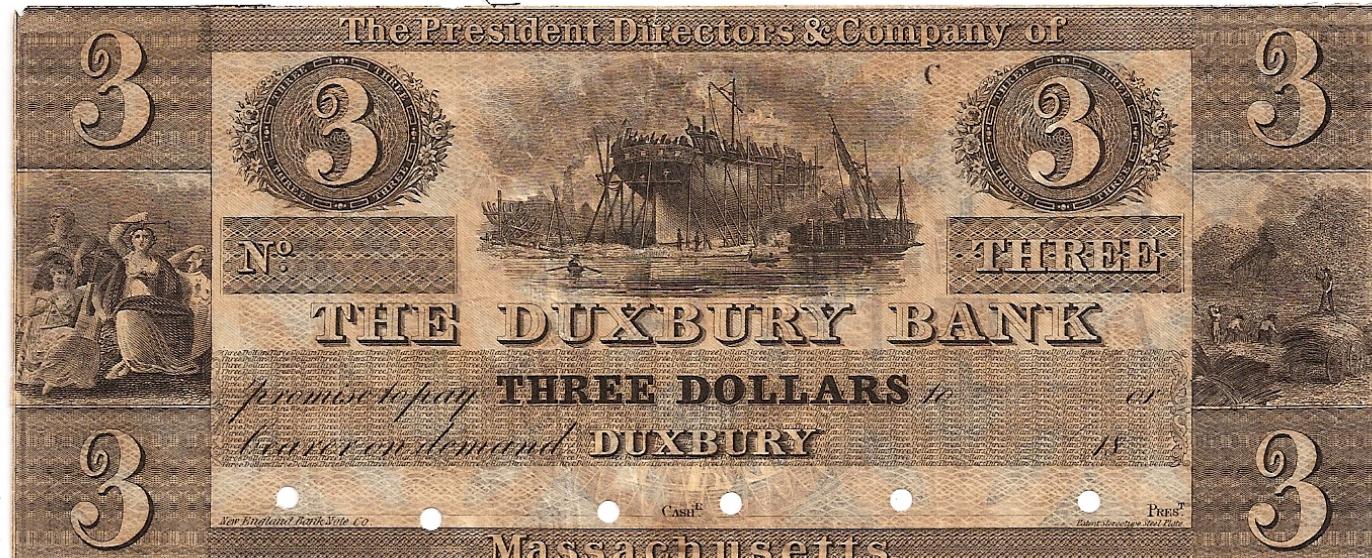
- The Bowen imprint is evident under magnification in the lower right quadrant of the back of the note. (No Bowen plate design # evident).

Essex Bank, \$10.00 Front & Back.



- A later design copyrighted in 1833. (Bowen's plate design #7.)

Duxbury Bank, \$3.00 Both Sides.



- Note the addition of the New England Banknote Company imprint opposite the PSSP.



- Another example of the 1833 patent with design #7

Duxbury Bank, \$3.00 (200x).



- The copyright or filing statement and Bowen's imprint is now evident across the whole note but not easily noticeable without magnification. This view also shows the blue stamped out areas fitting back into the main part of the plate just before printing takes place.

Taunton Bank, \$2.00 With A Perkins' Front.



Just another pretty face. This Haxby plate note bears the hand date 10 Dec., 1833. In this bank's case all denominations through the \$10 notes were issued both with and without the Congreve Check Plate back.

Taunton Bank, \$2.00 Check Plate Back.



This Congreve/Bowen back plate is design #6. The cycloidal engraving could have been made with the use of the Rose Machine, originally a jeweler's tool for engraving the backs of watches.

Taunton Bank, \$2.00 With Congreve / Bowen Back.



Something has happened to Bowen's plate #6. His imprint (Designed & Engraved,etc) on the right remains while the filing statement on the left is engraved over and not legible anymore.

Various Other Congreve / Bowen Back Designs.



- None of these have the NEBNCo imprint.

The Thirteen Banks Reported To Have Used The Congreve Patent Check Plate Security Device.

- Calais Bank, Maine
- Canal Bank, Portland, Maine
- Eastern Bank, Bangor, Maine
- Duxbury Bank, Mass.
- Fall River Bank, Troy, Mass.
- Nahant Bank, Mass.
- Bank of Norfolk, Roxbury, Mass
- Northampton Bank, Mass.
- Railroad Bank, Lowell, Mass.
- Taunton Bank, Mass.
- Portsmouth Bank, New Hampshire
- Essex Bank, Guildhall, VT.
- Newbury Bank, Wells River, VT.
- Haxby lists other banks as having a “check plate back”. Some of these may be Congreve Backs.

The Boston Bewick Company, 47 Court Street, Boston.

- In a disastrous fire in 1835 at his new engraving & publishing business, Abel Bowen lost all of his library and personal notes. His memoranda involving banknote engraving may have been lost to history forever.



T.R. Hawley &
C0. 25c.,
Boston.

At first glance this
looks like a
Congreve printing.
Although still being
attractive, it is only
a note printed in
three colors.



....THE END.....

